

ORE DEAL SAID TO BE CLOSED.

BUT GREAT NORTHERN AND STEEL MEN ARE MUM ABOUT IT.

Reports that the negotiations for the sale of the iron ore lands of the Great Northern Railroad to the United States Steel Corporation had been completed at any time in the fifteen months that the transaction has been under way.

In one quarter it was asserted very positively on the authority of one of the directors of the Steel Corporation that the papers of this report could be secured from James J. Hill, president of the Great Northern, Judge Gary, chairman of the board of the Steel Corporation, or from directors of either company.

Apparently an agreement not to discuss the matter had been made by the parties who conducted the negotiations. The Steel found a reason for such an agreement in the assessment laws of Minnesota, which in September 30 as the last date for making assessments. It may well have been considered advisable, it was pointed out, to conceal the valuation of the lands, as agreed upon by the two companies, until the expiration of the last day for raising the assessment this year.

The transaction is probably the largest since the organization of the Steel Corporation. It involves title to ore that is variously estimated as worth between \$300,000,000 and \$400,000,000. An estimate that the Steel considers as reliable as any other places the deposits of ore at 400,000,000 tons, which at a price of 85 cents a ton would yield the Great Northern \$340,000,000. It is believed that 45 cents a ton closely approximates the figure agreed upon for the ore to be taken from the beds in the near future. After a fixed period, probably, the price of the ore will advance or decline in accordance with the general iron market.

The ore lands are in the northern part of Minnesota on the Mesaba range, where the United States Steel Corporation already has large mines. They are reached by the Great Northern Railroad. The principal mines are about sixty miles from Duluth. The Great Northern owns 81,578 acres of land, of which 15,500 are known to be producing. The railroad owns 10,730 acres of these latter in fee and has mining leases of the remainder.

The principal mines are the Mahoning and Stevenson. Years ago geologists said of the land covering the Mahoning that it was valuable only for its timber and that there could be no mineral deposits. After the Great Northern acquired it not only was iron ore found, but through the entire extent of the surface. This mine is the particular prize. It is said that there has been found no mine in this country with such large deposits so near the soil.

It is well known that the transaction involves no cash payment for the entire tract. It will, in fact, necessitate no new financing on the part of the United States Steel Corporation. Generally, the plan is to place a price upon the entire amount of the ore in the beds and to specify the amount of ore which the Great Northern will mine year by year. The purchaser, it is believed, will pay interest on the gross value of the mine and will increase the interest year by year. The interest charges will decrease and the royalties increase annually. In other words, the plan is calculated to give the Great Northern as nearly a fixed annual income as is possible in view of the fluctuations of the steel market.

The agreement will probably run for fifty years. There is believed to be sufficient ore in the mines to supply the Steel Corporation for fifty years. The ore, provided it takes no ore from other mines.

An announcement of the completion of the transaction was made by one of the Great Northern's directors yesterday. Great Northern at that time was selling at 324. It closed at 325. In about the same time the common dividend advanced from 44 to 46 and the preferred from 105 to 106. It is considered certain that the formal announcement of the transaction will be followed by another of Great Northern's many melon dividends.

Those who expected in the last few days that Mr. Hill and his associates would be in the upper part of his one and a half story hat have had that suspicion strengthened by the action of the stocks directly concerned.

When Great Northern began to advance in the afternoon those who were short found there was hardly any stock for sale and that their requirements could only be filled in the face of a movement which in a few minutes wiped out the whole of the decline from the highest point of Tuesday last. There was a rise of fully ten points without any setback, and the stock advanced to 46 and 48 in the stock list but throughout the general market. Those who had been loudest in their assertions that the ore deal was hung up became convinced that a satisfactory conclusion to the negotiations had either been reached or was imminent, and in this conviction lost little time in getting in their buying orders.

"The selling of stocks in the last few days was the worst I have ever seen," said a shrewd observer of the trading, "and unless it was a fair disclosure of some other selling there may be an interesting time when covering starts in earnest. All the big speculative houses took a hand, selling with an abandon which could only be justified by the certainty that the deal was done. If it is a deal, money becomes easy next week we should have a pretty good market unless the political outlook is darker than it seems to me."

On the opening bulge in prices everybody got the tip to buy Amalgamated. Very little difficulty in getting stock and their buying was not at all sufficient to absorb the stream, which in a little while became a flood that swept away the stop orders at 110 and forced large amounts of stock to drop their prices and run as the price dropped down nearly to the 100 mark. At such times it is the custom to look at the selling and ignore the buying, but it must be evident that while there was no great talk of Standard Oil liquidation some interest took the stock on the decline. What interest this was can only be surmised, but it is a fair assumption that the buyer was of large caliber. It has several times happened in the past that the Standard Oil interests had stopped a movement in one of their stocks they took it up themselves in their own good time and carried it along in a way which the previous manipulation was but as child's play.

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GOSSIP OF WALL STREET.

A curious incident of the general excitement of Wall Street was furnished yesterday morning by the disappearance of the trading element over the method followed by Secretary Shaw in his latest effort to relieve the money situation. For weeks past it had been asserted that the next move would be to deposit a part of the Treasury's large surplus with one of the banks for the benefit of the commercial interests—the step just now taken—but the average trader winked the other eye and said that when the Secretary said that in order to avert a sharp decline in prices of stocks it was necessary to "do something," the money would be placed here in abundance. The one idea in speculative quarters was that the Secretary would have the first claim, but Treasury officials and prominent banking interests agreed in thinking otherwise. All legitimate business was commercial and financial.

Most traders regard it as an axiom that a market which does not at once respond to good news is not a bull market. It is not, however, as all are to accept this as an invariable rule. Temporary conditions may for a time react to the effect of the news, but the rule is permanent or nearly so. It will make itself felt after the transitory influences have passed away. The new measure of relief for the money market, for instance, came at an inopportune time for a rally in stocks, for some strong operators had begun a bearish movement in the anticipation of a troublesome scarcity of funds over the end of the month and had found the Secretary's action of the market such, on account of the number of light waisted bulls and the existence of larger stop orders, that it was possible to play the political uncertainty against the improvement in the banking situation to force the decline further. Late in the day the good news began to make itself felt.

In the light of the day's events it would seem as if the so-called axiom about response to good news is an axiom at all, but a very unsafe hypothesis.

Next in order following the restoration of easy money conditions will be the movement of the Great Northern ore deal, unless present indications prove very deceptive.

Mr. Hill, according to report, has been the busiest man in Wall Street all this week. So deeply has he been immersed in business that he has been almost inaccessible even to his most influential friends and official associates, while all the circumstances surrounding his movements have strongly indicated that the long talked of ore deal has been practically all of his time and attention. The principal details as to the new relation before any substantial benefit had been derived from the new conditions. Until the exact terms are made known it will be of course impossible to say whether the Great Northern or United States Steel are the best of the bargain, but there is every reason to believe that the basis is highly equitable, so that in all probability opinion will be divided on the question.

When the whole market turned weak in the afternoon it was noticeable that the United States Steel showed better resistance than almost any other stock, its action in this respect being in marked contrast to its heaviness on the preceding day. This is in itself a sign of strength. The fact that the United States Steel showed better resistance than almost any other stock, its action in this respect being in marked contrast to its heaviness on the preceding day. This is in itself a sign of strength. The fact that the United States Steel showed better resistance than almost any other stock, its action in this respect being in marked contrast to its heaviness on the preceding day. This is in itself a sign of strength.

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NOTICE

To the holders of Refunding 4½% Gold Bonds of North Chicago Street Railroad Co., dated April 1, 1901:

An agreement has been entered into and lodged with the Northern Trust Company of Chicago, constituting the undersigned a Bondholders' Committee for the purposes specified in said agreement. Copies of this agreement will be furnished on application to the Northern Trust Company or the First Trust & Savings Bank in Chicago or to either the New York or Chicago offices of N. W. Harris & Company. Deposits of bonds are provided to be made not later than October 10, 1906. Deposits made at the office of N. W. Harris & Company, Pine and William Streets, New York, will be forwarded to the depository for deposit under the agreement.

A large amount of bonds have already been deposited under the above agreement, and the holders of any of said bonds who have not already done so are urged to deposit their bonds at an early date.

N. W. HARRIS
D. M. CUMMINGS
ALLEN B. FORBES
E. K. BOISOT
C. P. HOOVER
Bondholders' Committee.

H. A. DOW, Secretary
New York, September 29

RAILROAD EARNINGS.

Chicago, Indianapolis and Louisville.
1906. 1905. Changes.
From July 1 to Aug. 31, 1906, \$1,061,100.
From July 1 to Aug. 31, 1905, 1,432,715.
Increase, \$371,615.
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Increase, \$371,615.

The Rock Island Company reports for August:
1906. 1905. Changes.
Gross earnings, \$1,061,100.
Operating expenses, 323,943.
Net earnings, \$737,157.
From July 1 to Aug. 31, 1906, \$737,157.
From July 1 to Aug. 31, 1905, 1,432,715.
Increase, \$371,615.

The Reading Company, including the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad and the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron Company, reports for the month of August:
1906. 1905. Changes.
Gross earnings, \$1,061,100.
Operating expenses, 323,943.
Net earnings, \$737,157.
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The Erie Railroad Company, all lines, reports for August:
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Plan for the Consolidation OF THE HOCKING VALLEY RAILWAY COMPANY AND THE KANAWHA & MICHIGAN RAILWAY COMPANY

To the Stockholders of the above named Companies:

At the request of holders of large amounts of stock in each of these companies, the undersigned have prepared a plan for the consolidation of these companies, and have consented to act as managers in carrying the same into effect.

The plan of consolidation contemplates the retirement of the preferred stock of The Hocking Valley Railway Company, which, by the terms of its issue, is redeemable at par, and the creation by the Consolidated Company of a new General Lien Mortgage, under which provision is to be made for refunding at a lower rate of interest outstanding equipment obligations and floating indebtedness of both companies, and which is to furnish ample resources for betterments and improvements of the consolidated properties necessary to meet the demands of their growing business, so that the net earnings of the Consolidated Company may be available for dividends on its stock, instead of being required to meet expenses properly chargeable to capital account. It is not intended at present to disturb the bonds issued or issuable under the present mortgages of either of the existing companies, which are to retain their relative priorities as now authorized.

The plan of consolidation is acceptable to the management of both companies, and is submitted to you after arrangement with representatives of the principal stock interests in each.

The present stock capitalization is as follows:
HOCKING VALLEY RAILWAY COMPANY:
Preferred stock, \$15,000,000.
Common stock, 11,000,000.
KANAWHA AND MICHIGAN RAILWAY COMPANY:
Stock, \$10,000,000.

*\$10,000,000 in treasury; \$4,500,000 held by the Hocking Valley Railway Company.

The Consolidated Company is to authorize the following issues of securities:
\$30,000,000 General Lien Four Per Cent. Thirty-Year Gold Bonds;
\$13,750,000 Stock.

The General Lien Gold Bonds are to be secured by a mortgage on all the railroad property owned by the Consolidated Company at the time of the execution and delivery of the General Lien Mortgage, subject to the liens of bonds issued or issuable under existing mortgages, and upon all additional property thereafter acquired by the use of the General Lien Bonds or their proceeds. They are to mature July 1, 1936, and to bear interest at the rate of four per cent. per annum, from July 1, 1906, payable semi-annually on the first day of January and of July; both principal and interest to be payable in the City of New York, in gold coin of the United States of America, or of equal to the present standard of weight and fineness, without deduction for any tax or taxes which the Company or the Trustee may be required to pay thereon under any present or future law of the United States or of any state, county or municipality therein. They are to be coupon bonds for \$1,000 each, with the privilege of registration as to principal, and also registered bonds, and the coupon bonds and the registered bonds are to be made interchangeable under proper regulations in the mortgage.

Of the General Lien Gold Bonds, \$13,000,000 are to be reserved for future issue in respect of the acquisition of additional property, including equipment, and for betterments and improvements, and for funding equipment and other floating obligations assumed by the Consolidated Company in the consolidation. The remaining \$17,000,000 are to be issued for use in connection with the consolidation.

The new stock is to be of one class, and to be divided into shares each of \$100.

Of the new stock there will be issued:
In lieu of the existing common stock of the Hocking Valley Railway Company, \$11,000,000.
In lieu of \$4,400,000 stock of the Kanawha and Michigan Railway Company outstanding in the hands of the public, 2,604,000.

In lieu of remaining stock of the Kanawha and Michigan Railway Company held by Hocking Valley Railway Company (the treasury stock of the Kanawha and Michigan Railway Company to be cancelled), 56,000.
Under the plan and on consummation thereof, the \$17,000,000 Bonds above mentioned, together with said \$56,000 of stock and also all other stock of the Consolidated Company that may not be actually delivered in pursuance of the consolidation, are to be purchased by the undersigned for their own account against the exchange of outstanding stock of the constituent companies, the undersigned making deliveries to holders of deposited preferred stock of The Hocking Valley Railway Company in exchange thereof of General Lien Gold Bonds in accordance with their Deposit Receipts. Otherwise they will make no charge against depositing stockholders for their compensation or expenses in acting under the plan.

Holders of stock of The Hocking Valley Railway Company and of said outstanding stock of the Kanawha and Michigan Railway Company depositing their stock in pursuance of this notice, in the event of the consummation of the consolidation will be entitled to receive, in exchange therefor, securities of the Consolidated Company as follows:

HOCKING VALLEY RAILWAY COMPANY:
For each share of preferred stock, General Lien Gold Bonds, \$110.
For each share of common stock, New stock, \$100.

KANAWHA AND MICHIGAN RAILWAY COMPANY:
For each share of stock, New stock, \$100.
Provision will be made for cash adjustment of fractional amounts of bonds and stock.

Holders of said stock of said companies who desire to assent to the plan of consolidation must, on or before September 29th, 1906, deposit their certificates of stock with proper instruments